

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 00644 222026Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 559
INFO CINCLANT
GUANTANAMO NS

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0644

CINCLANT PLEASE PASS GUANTANAMO NS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI CU US
SUBJ: CUBANS PROTEST ALLEGED AIR INCURSIONS AT GUANTANAMO

1. USINT, NOVEMBER 21, RECEIVED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS (MINREX) NOTE 1646 DATED NOVEMBER 17 PROTESTING
ALLEGED INCURSIONS BY US NAVY FIGHTER-BOMBER AIRCRAFT INTO
CUBAN AIRSPACE NEAR GUANTANAMO. MINREX ASSERTS THAT FACT
THAT AIRCRAFT ENGAGING IN BOMBING PRACTICE CREATES DANGER
TO SURROUNDING CUBAN TERRITORY. (COMMENT: GIVEN FACT THAT LATEST
ALLEGED INTRUSIONS PURPORTEDLY OCCURRED ON NOVEMBER 15, CUBANS
MAY ASSOCIATE, OR SEEK TO ASSOCIATE, THIS AIR ACTIVITY WITH RECENT
USG STATEMENTS ON CUBAN MILITARY POLICY IN AFRICA.)

2. INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF TEXT OF MINREX NOTE FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT

ON OCTOBER 6, 1977, BETWEEN 1645 AND 1647, TWO A-6
INTRUDER AIRCRAFT, BELOGING TO CV59, FORRESTAL,
VIOLATED CUBAN AIRSPACE AT THE NORTHERN LIMIT OF THE
US NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO BAY. LATER, BETWEEN
1650 AND 1652, THE SAME AIRCRAFT REPATED THE VIOLATION.
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PAGE 02 HAVANA 00644 222026Z

IN BOT CASES, THE VIOLATIONS CCURRED ON A WIDTY OF
SIX KILOMETERS AND TO A DEPTY OF TWO KILOMETERS, OVER-
FLYING THE TOWN OF BOQUERON.

3. ON NOVEMBER 16, 1977, BETWEEN 0730 AND 0902, PAIRS
OF A-7 CORSAIR II AIRCRAFT, BELOGING TO CVN-69, DWIGHT D.
EISENHOWER, VIOLATED CUBAN AIRSPACE FIVE TIMES AT THE

NORTH AND WEST LIMITS OF THE US NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO BAY--ON FOUR OCCASIONS ON A WIDTH OF FOUR KILOMETERS AND TO A DEPTH OF 2.5 KILOMETERS, AND ON THE LAST OCCASION ON A WIDTH OF 20 KILOMETERS AND TO DEPTH OF 4 KILOMETERS.

4. THE AIRCRAFT THAT COMMITTED THESE VIOLATIONS WERE NOT PREPARING TO LAND, BUT WERE PARTICIPATING IN BOMBING EXERCISES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE NAVAL BASE, AND, DURING THEIR FLIGHT WITHIN THE SOVEREIGN AIRSPACE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE NORTH OF THAT INSTALLATION, CARRIED ARMAMENTS THAT WERE LATER USED IN BOMBING PRACTICE--WITH CONSEQUENT DANGER FOR THE LIFE OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE ZONE, AS WELL AS THE THREAT OF DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

5. THIS TYPE OF ACTION IS OCCURRING REPEATEDLY, CONCIDING WITH THE PRESENCE OF US NAVY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AT THE CITED NAVAL BASE.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA SUBMITS THESE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AS IT DID PREVIOUSLY THROUGH THE SWISS EMBASSY IN CUBA, HOPING THAT ON THE PRESENT OCCASION THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL WEIGHT THESE ARGUMENTS AND TAKE THE CORRESPONDING MEASURES TO ASSURE THAT THESE ACTS ARE NOT REPEATED AND THAT THE AFFIRMATION MADE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 HAVANA 00644 222026Z

US INTERESTS SECTION NOTE 96-SI, DATED OCTOBER 31, 1977 (SEE STATE 258027) BEGINS TO BE COMPLIED WITH, TO WIT, "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REGARDS SERIOUSLY VIOLATIONS OF THE AIRSPACE OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND WILL TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE MEASURE TO ENSURE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE LAWS GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC AND WILL COOPERATE IN ORDER TO PREVENT AIRCRAFT VIOLATION OF OTHER COUNTRIES' AIRSPACE". END TEXT

7. COMMENT: SENIOR CUBAN OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO US THAT USG MAY BE UNDERTAKING INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN OF PRESSURE AGAINST CUBA FOLLOWING UP ON RECENT USG STATEMENTS ON CUBAN MILITARY POLICY IN AFRICA. FROM THIS CONSPIRATORIAL PERSPECTIVE, CUBANS MAY BELIEVE NOVEMBER 15 AIR INCIDENTS FIGURE IN THIS DESIGN. IN THE EVENT THAT WE WISH TO CIRCUMSCRIBE CUBAN SUSPICIONS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD REPLY QUICKLY TO CUBAN COMPLAINT, REAFFIRMING OCTOBER 31 ASSURANCES. IN THE EVENT THAT WE WISH TO MAXIMIZE CUBAN CONCERNS, DEPARTMENT SHOULD WITHHOLD REPLY FOR SOME WEEKS. OUR OWN PREFERENCE IS FOR QUICK REPLY. THE USG AFRICAN STATEMENTS STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET, AND IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO AGGRAVATE CURRENTLY QUIESCENT

GUANTANAMO ISSUE AND PROVIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO CUBANS TO
DRAW LINK BETWEEN OUR CONTINUED PRESENCE AT GUANTANAMO
AND CONTINUED CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA.
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